

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 22 to 27, 30 to 39, 50 to 54, and 57 to 60 are pending in the application.

Claims 22 and 50 have been amended herein. No new claims have been added, and no claims have been canceled. Following entry of the amendments, claims 22 to 27, 30 to 39, 50 to 54, and 57 to 60 will be pending in the application.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejections of record in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Alleged Indefiniteness

Claims 22 to 27, 30 to 39, 50 to 54, and 57 to 60 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly indefinite because claims 22 and 50 recite the conjugate groups “acridine, fluorescein, rhodamine, and coumarin” along with the conjugate group “dye.” The Office Action asserts that the recitation of a broad range or limitation together in the same claim with a narrow range or limitation that falls within the broad range or limitation is indefinite. Without conceding the correctness of the assertion, and to advance prosecution, claims 22 and 50 have been amended to delete the phrase “or dye.” Support for the amendment is found in the specification as originally filed at, for example, page 11, line 32 to page 12, line 1. The rejection has been obviated, and Applicants respectfully request withdrawal thereof.

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Application No.: 09/823,031
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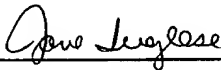
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Conclusion

Applicants believe that the foregoing constitutes a complete and full response to the Office Action of record. Accordingly, an early and favorable Action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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